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ABSTRACT

Representatives from the House of Representatives, American Youth Hostels, Inc. (AYH), the Council on International Exchange, Amtrak, the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, Trancare, Inc. of Maryland, and the East Coast Bicycle Congress testified in favor of H.R. 13557 at the August 14, 1978, hearing in Washington, D.C. H.R. 13557 was proposed to provide grants administered by AYH to renovate existing structures and construct four new structures for use as youth hostels in order to further the development of a national system of youth hostels and increase the opportunities for outdoor recreation and educational travel. While in support of the bill, the representatives of Trancare voiced concern regarding the possible monopolistic control of AYH, exclusion from financial controls for the corporation, and discrimination based on fee variance for members and non-members of AYH. (SE)

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YOUTH HOSTELS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIFTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H.R. 13557

TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO RENOVATE EXISTING STRUCTURES FOR USE AS YOUTH HOSTELS AND TO CONSTRUCT FOUR NEW STRUCTURES FOR USE AS YOUTH HOSTELS IN ORDER TO FURTHER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF YOUTH HOSTELS AND INCREASE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HEARING HELD IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 14, 1978

Serial No. 95–38

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NOTE.—The first listed minority member is counterpart to the subcommittee chairman.

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YOUTH HOSTELS

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1978

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS,
Washington, D.C.

The subcommittee met at 10:15 a.m., pursuant to notice, in room 1324, Longworth House Office Building, Hon. Phillip Burton (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. BURTON. The Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs will be called to order.

We are considering H.R. 13557 by Mr. Nolan.

We will print the bill, H.R. 13557, at this point in the record.

[The bill, H.R. 13557, follows.]

95TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 13557

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 1978

Mr. NOLAN introduced the following bill; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs and Interior and Insular Affairs

A BILL

To provide grants to renovate existing structures for use as youth hostels and to construct four new structures for use as youth hostels in order to further the development of a national system of youth hostels and increase the opportunity for outdoor recreation and educational travel, and for other purposes,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SHORT TITLE

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "American Youth Hostel Act of 1978".

FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) youth hostels provide inexpensive, overnight accommodations for hikers, bicyclists, canoeists, and other people of all ages involved in educational and recreational activities;

(2) youth hostels promote visitation and exploration of national parks, recreation areas, monuments, rural areas, and urban centers located in the United States;

(3) for more than sixty years, travelers throughout the world have enjoyed and appreciated the value and convenience of youth hostels;

(4) forty-nine foreign countries have youth hostel systems which receive some form of Government assistance;

(5) American Youth Hostels, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the "corporation"), a nonprofit membership organization incorporated in the State of New York, seeks to encourage and promote enjoyment of outdoor recreational activities and educational travel by establishing youth hostels throughout the United States;

(6) the youth hostels operated by the corporation promote good citizenship and the maintenance of the family by providing an opportunity for interaction among the youth of America, and by providing accommodations so that families may participate in recreational activities;

(7) for the last forty-three years, the corporation has been funded almost solely through the collection of minimal membership fees and accommodation charges; and

(8) the youth hostels operated by the corporation are invaluable to the recreational and educational needs of the United States, and the corporation and the entire youth hostel development effort is deserving of the support and recognition of the American people.

(b) It is the purpose of this Act to encourage the development of a national youth hostel system by providing grants to defray the cost of improvement or renovation of existing structures to be used as youth hostels and the construction of four new structures as pilot projects to be used as youth hostels.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

SEC. 3. (a) The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the corporation for the purpose of—

(1) developing a national plan for youth hostel development;

(2) administering a grant program to implement the plan.

(b) Guidelines for the cooperative agreements shall include but are not limited to—

(1) specific planning responsibilities designated for the Secretary and the corporation;

(2) specific administrative responsibilities designated for the Secretary and the corporation;

(3) establishment of an application procedure for funds for improvement or renovation projects as set forth in section 5 of this Act;

(4) establishment of an application procedure for funds for participation in the pilot program for new construction;

(5) provisions for annual review and approval of the terms of the cooperative agreements by the Secretary; and

(6) such other provisions as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate for the purposes of this Act.

NATIONAL PLAN FOR YOUTH HOSTEL DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 4. Guidelines for the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development shall include but are not limited to—

(1) a draft plan shall be formulated within twelve months after enactment of this Act;

(2) the draft plan shall be published in the Federal Register for public comment;

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(3) appropriate review and revision of the plan prompted by public comment shall be made by the Secretary in cooperation with the corporation before implementation, expenditure of funds for improvement or renovation or new construction of youth hostel facilities as authorized by this Act;

(4) the plan shall determine locations most appropriate for youth hostel development and the establishment of a national system of youth hostels;

(5) the plan shall identify additional methods for further development of the National Youth Hostel System including the operation of youth hostels as adaptive uses of structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places;

(6) the plan shall provide for the appropriate use of Federal job training programs, employment programs, and youth service and employment programs in improvement and renovation projects and in other forms of support for youth hostels;

(7) the plan shall provide for the demonstration of energy and cost efficient technologies in the improvement, renovation, or new construction of structures to be used as youth hostels;

(8) the plan shall encourage, to the greatest ex-

tent possible, inclusion of youth hostel development in the recreation plans of Federal, State, and general purpose local governments; and

(9) the plan shall contain such other provisions as the Secretary may deem necessary and appropriate for the purposes of this Act.

GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT AND RENOVATION

SEC. 5. (a) Upon completion of the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development, the Secretary may make grants to Federal agencies, States, general purpose local governments, and private nonprofit organizations to defray a portion of the total cost of improvements or renovations of structures to be used as youth hostels.

(b) Each applicant for a grant under this section may submit an application in the manner prescribed by the cooperative agreement developed pursuant to section 3(b)(3) of this Act. Any such applicant shall—

(1) provide assurances that the sum of the following two items will equal at least 25 per centum of the total cost of improvements or renovation of the structure involved:

(A) all funds which the applicant has deposited in an escrow account for the improvement or renovation of the structure involved; and

(B) all contributions of money, facilities,

equipment, supplies, and personal services, at their fair market value as determined by the Secretary for the purposes of completing renovations or improvements of the structure involved;

(2) prepare a plan, in such detail as the Secretary may require, for the improvement or renovation of such structure;

(3) provide assurances that such improvements or renovations shall be carried out and such youth hostel shall be operated in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the political jurisdiction in which such youth hostel is located;

(4) certify that such applicant possesses a provisional youth hostel charter from the corporation for such youth hostel;

(5) certify that such applicant is an eligible public authority or bona fide nonprofit organization; and

(6) provide such other information as the Secretary may deem necessary for the purposes of this Act.

GRANTS FOR PILOT PROGRAM FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 6. (a) Upon completion of the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development, the Secretary may make grants to Federal agencies, States, general purpose local governments, private nonprofit organizations or private profit entities operating under contract of agreement with the Federal

Government for limited dividend returns on operation of such youth hostel facility. This grant program shall be based on a matching formula of 50 per centum Federal and 50 per centum applicant funding.

(b) Each applicant for a grant under this section may submit an application in the manner prescribed by the cooperative agreement developed pursuant to section 3 (a) (4) of this Act. Any such applicant shall—

(1) provide assurances that all funds required for the construction of such structure have been placed in an escrow account for the designated purpose of construction of such structure;

(2) prepare a plan, in such detail as the Secretary may require, for the construction of such structure;

(3) provide assurances that such construction shall be carried out and such youth hostel shall be constructed and operated in accordance with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the political jurisdiction in which it is located;

(4) certify that such applicant possesses a provisional youth hostel charter from the corporation for such youth hostel; and

(5) provide such other information and assurances as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate for the purposes of this Act.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SEC. 7. (a) In any case in which the corporation retains or acquires title to any youth hostel, the corporation is solely responsible for the operation of such youth hostel, the collection of all fees and payment of all debts incurred in the operation of such youth hostel facility.

(b) In any case in which a grant recipient, other than the corporation, retains or acquires title to a youth hostel—

(1) such grant recipient is solely responsible for the collection of all fees, and payment of all debts incurred in the operation of the youth hostel; and

(2) the operation of the youth hostel by such grant recipient supervised by the corporation in accordance with the terms of the cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

(c) In any case in which a grant recipient, other than the corporation, does not intend to own and operate the youth hostel in accordance with the provisions of this Act, such recipient shall provide assurances that upon completion of improvements, renovation or new construction, title to such structure and the land upon which it is situated shall be transferred to the corporation free and clear of any mortgage, lien, judgment, or other claim.

(d) the Secretary shall stipulate such fiscal and pro-

gram control and fund accounting procedures as he may deem necessary to assure proper disbursement of, and accounting for, Federal funds granted under the provisions of this Act; and

(c) the Secretary may require public hearings, written comments, or other methods to assess public opinion on proposed expenditures for improvements, renovations or new construction at sites proposed for youth hostel development.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 8. (a) There is authorized to be appropriated the sum of $9,000,000 for fiscal year 1979 to remain available until expended, with obligations not to exceed $3,000,000 for any fiscal year thereafter, for grants authorized by section 5 of this Act.

(b) There is authorized to be appropriated not more than $600,000 for fiscal year 1979 to remain available until expended with obligations not to exceed $300,000 for any fiscal year thereafter, for grants authorized by section 6 of this Act. The Federal share of any grant for any one pilot new construction project shall not exceed $150,000.

(c) There is authorized to be appropriated not more than $500,000 for the purposes of formulating the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development pursuant to section 4 of this Act.

(d) There is authorized to be appropriated not more than $400,000 for each fiscal year for the purposes of administering the grant programs established by section 5 and section 6 of this Act.

DEFINITIONS

SEC. 9. (a) For the purposes of this Act—

(1) the term "youth hostel" means an inexpensive, self-service, dormitory-style, supervised overnight facility and the land upon which it is situated, which is chartered by American Youth Hostels, Incorporated, and operated in accordance with the practices of American Youth Hostels, Incorporated, and the International Youth Hostel Federation;

(2) the term "structure" means a building, barn, cabin, cottage, or any other facility which is suitable for use as a youth hostel;

(3) the term "title" means fee title;

(4) the term "State" means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(5) the term "general purpose local government" means any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State.

I would like at this point in the record to commend Congressman Nolan for his leadership in this effort. It is reasonably late in the legislative year, and even if we acted this year, I am not sure the committee could do anything. Even if they did, there is nothing that could happen until October of 1979 under our budget cycle.

We will first have Mr. Mahon representing Congressman Nolan.

Stan, do you want to come forward?

STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD NOLAN, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MINNESOTA; PRESENTED BY STAN MAHON, STAFF ASSISTANT

Mr. MAHON. My name is Stan Mahon. I am a staff assistant to Congressman Nolan, author of the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978. Unfortunately, Mr. Nolan is stranded in Minneapolis due to extenuating circumstances. He has requested I present his statement.

Mr. BURTON. Without objection, we will insert that statement in full into the record.

[Prepared statement of Hon. Richard Nolan may be found in the appendix.]

Mr. BURTON. How extensive is it?

Mr. MAHON. Six pages.

Mr. BURTON. Please proceed.

Mr. MAHON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee for this opportunity to appear before you this morning in support of the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

I have long believed travel to be one of the best means of education. Firsthand experience of foreign and domestic cultures involving people, recreation, areas of national significance as well as places of natural beauty all cultivate a unique perspective from which one learns to know one's self, one's peers, the Nation and the world around us. Travel is indeed the best means by which to broaden one's horizons.

Unfortunately, prohibitive costs have greatly discouraged many individuals from traveling domestically or abroad and, despite reduced air fares which now makes it possible to travel from New York to London for less than the cost of air travel from Washington, D.C. to Minneapolis, passengers must still cope with steadily rising costs of overnight accommodations upon arrival at their destination. One channel through which to circumvent excessive travel expense is the utilization of youth hostels.

Youth hostels are rather spartan, dormitory-styled, overnight, supervised, accommodations where travelers must supply their own linen, share a common kitchen, dining, and social area. They encourage traveling modestly and inexpensively. Overnight charges range from 40 cents to $3 overseas; while in the United States and Canada, the prices range from $1.50 to $3.50. Hostels are obviously not first-class hotels. In fact the International Youth Hostel Handbook explicitly states: "If you are looking for hotel standards of comfort and service, you should not use youth hostels."

A hostel here or abroad may be a church, school, house, castle, or a facility constructed specifically for use as a youth hostel. The Canadians have even converted an old jail to be used as a hostel.

The first American youth hostel was established in 1934, by Isabel and Monroe Smith, in Northfield, Mass. Since that time, the number

of hostels chartered by American Youth Hostels, Inc., has grown to 194. This number is compared to more than 644 hostels in Germany, 565 in Japan, and 265 in England.

This inverse relationship of size of country to number of hostels would seem to find its base in the fact that unlike Germany, Japan, and England, the hostels in the United States are funded purely through the collection of fees and contributions from private interests; which brings us to the point of these hearings today: The American Youth Hostel Act.

The American Youth Hostel Act was originally conceived in the waning days of the 94th Congress as a result of my visit to Sweden as a participant in the European Parliamentary Exchange of 1976. In the course of that trip, I had occasion to visit a Swedish hostel and was greatly impressed. It became readily apparent the United States, in all its wealth and grandeur, was sadly lacking in an inexpensive means by which travelers might experience and appreciate this myriad of great national and natural resources our country has to offer.

The legislation we are considering this morning is the result of a cooperative effort between my office, American Youth Hostels, Inc., and numerous other parties sharing a common interest in hostel development. The original American Youth Hostel Act was introduced October 1, 1976, as H.R. 15836. An identical bill was then introduced into the early days of the 95th Congress; H.R. 3767 on February 22, 1977. Finally, H.R. 13557, a revised version of earlier legislation was introduced on July 20, 1978.

I intend to reintroduce an identical bill to H.R. 13557 later today which will include as cosponsors several of my colleagues including Mr. Lehman, Mr. Moakley, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Rodino, Mr. Scheuer, Mr. Reuss, Mr. Price, Mr. Rahall, Mrs. Spellman, Mr. Downey, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Edgar, Mr. Miller, Mr. Roncalio, Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Conyers, and Mr. Maguire, as well as any other Member who wishes to join me in this endeavor.

The legislation as originally introduced was revised in H.R. 13557 in an effort to address several points of concern raised by parties supportive of the concept of the act but having reservations over certain provisions within the language or suggestions for improving the legislation.

The net result is an act which provides grants on a 75-percent Federal, 25-percent applicant basis for the renovation of existing structures to be used as youth hostels. The act goes further in authorizing grants on a 50-percent Federal, 50-percent applicant basis for the construction of four new facilities to be used as youth hostels under a pilot program.

All grants will be administered under this act according to the national plan for youth hostel development. The Secretary of the Department of the Interior is charged with the formulation of this national plan with the cooperation of American Youth Hostels, Inc., and any other group interested in the development of a national system of hostels.

Objections have been raised in the course of drafting this legislation because of the fact a grant recipient must possess an interim hostel charter from American Youth Hostels, Inc., prior to receiving a grant under the provisions of this legislation. I think it is important to qualify this requirement at this time. The provision to which I refer is very important to the success of a national youth hostel system.

American Youth Hostels, Inc., is the only organization recognized by the International Youth Hostel Federation, which is to say the International Youth Hostel Federation card held by a European traveler will be as welcome in any American hostel as it would in Germany, France, or any other affiliate youth hostel.

The total appropriation for this legislation is modest totaling $11.3 million over 3 years. This amount breaks down to $9 million for renovation of existing structures; not more than $600,000 for the four new pilot structures with the Federal share for any one project not to exceed $150,000; not more than $500,000 for the formulation of the national plan for youth hostel development; and, not more than $400,000 for each fiscal year for the purposes of administration.

These costs may be considered offset by the revenue generated by increased tourist activity. Furthermore, this legislation will signify a U.S. commitment to fostering amicable foreign relations. Already I have received letters from youth hostel associations in Brussels, London, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Scotland, and Egypt as well as the International Youth Hostel Federation, in support of my legislation.

Finally, and most importantly, this act will provide Americans and foreigners a greater opportunity to see and experience so much more of our great Nation.

In closing, I would like to thank the subcommittee for this opportunity to appear before you this morning in support of this legislation. It it my sincere hope you will share my enthusiasm for youth hostel development in the United States.

Finally, I should like to add for the record several technical corrections to H.R. 13557 which, due to typographical error, were erroneously or incompletely included in the legislation.

Once again I would like to indicate my sincere appreciation to the subcommittee for these hearings this morning.

[Technical corrections to H.R. 13557 referred to above may be found in the appendix following Congressman Nolan's prepared statement.]

Mr. BURTON. Thank you very much, Stan.

Congressman Nolan, of course, has been working very hard to develop the kind of constituency in the House to get support for this idea which I favor in principle. We will be discussing this matter further with him in the course of the next few days.

Mr. Johnson.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT JOHNSON, NATIONAL FIELD REPRESENTATIVE, AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, I am Robert Johnson, national field representative, American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Today I present the comments of AYH supporting this bill because neither AYH executive director, Mr. Thomas Newman, nor President Dick Leary can be here. They are attending the biennial conference of the International Youth Hostel Federation this week in Paris, France.

Mr. BURTON. That sounds like tough duty.

Mr. JOHNSON. In preparing testimony we recognized that we would be the only witness that would be able to present certain information about worldwide hostels.

Therefore, in the interest of brevity, much of this information is printed in the form of written attachments to my testimony.

Mr. BURTON. Without objection, these items that you gave to the committee clerk will be included in the record in full.

If you have additional items, we will include them in the committee files. Your statement and any other records you think desirable will become part of the committee hearing record this morning.

[Prepared statement of Robert Johnson, with attachments, may be found in the appendix.]

Mr. JOHNSON. Thank you. The rest of the verbal testimony will take me about 10 minutes to present. Do you wish it in its entirety?

Mr. BURTON. Sure. Will you deal in part with what the trade-off considerations are if we consider this aspect of this legislation?

Mr. JOHNSON. AYH is a nonprofit association organized as a community service to provide year-round recreational opportunities and inexpensive educational travel through hosteling. It was established in 1934 and today has about 80,000 members, with additional supporters and wellwishers from the public, industry, and public officials.

Mr. BURTON. Are you going to read this through?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. You can depart from your prepared statement and just review it informally, paying particular attention to the exclusive suggestion in the proposal.

Mr. JOHNSON. All right. I would like to repeat some of the comments as they are written as they address that point and I will go from there.

Mr. BURTON. We are very favorably disposed to this idea so it is more important to educate us rather than going through a history of the background and so forth, considering the highly qualitative and limited quantitative membership.

Mr. JOHNSON. There are three major features of the bill that speak to how the bill will occur. Primary among them is that a cooperative agreement is proposed to exist between the Department of the Interior and American Youth Hostels, Inc.

This cooperative agreement would do several things: One, it would provide the vehicle for Government support for privately operated recreational facilities; and two, it would provide the independence from Government in the operation of the overall program.

One of the reasons why this independence is desirable is because we are talking here of creating a larger and more powerful adjunct to the International Youth Hostel Federation which has as one of its requirements that the hostel in any one country be operated by a private organization separate from Government and hopefully with the support of Government.

The second major feature is that you call for a national plan for hostel development to assist in spending on buildings which would become hostels. The value of the plan I believe is this: It enables the public sector through the Department of the Interior as well as American Youth Hostels, Inc., and other organizations representing the private sector's interests of a wide variety of recreationists, the support of industry, and the interest of industry, to cooperate on how such a program will be developed.

This cooperation will cover several areas: One, the location, the primary location of important hostels in order to facilitate tourism of our

great national areas and tourist attractions; two, to coordinate the location of hostels that the flow of people use moving across this country, not only meaning to tour but to go from place to place, home to home, from major population center to major population center; and finally, the plan would enable prioritizing of the eventual projects so that fairness would result and money would be spent on those most important and not spent on those that in the long run are not important.

The third main feature of the bill of course is the granting feature itself. In studying this and in consulting on the draft of the legislation, AYH became aware that perhaps the largest resource of buildings which now exist are either unutilized or underutilized and exist in the public estate.

Our own experience with public authority such as States, the State of California, the State of Washington, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, is that in these areas there is willingness to provide buildings which are not now used for such a program.

Mr. BURTON. Let me ask you this question, do you have any idea of how many hostels there are in the country?

Mr. JOHNSON. Just over 200.

Mr. BURTON. How many of those are built on Park Service land or within Park Service administered units?

Mr. JOHNSON. Within the National Park Service there are eight hostels and in five separate parks.

Mr. BURTON. How about the Forest Service?

Mr. JOHNSON. There are none within the Forest Service.

Mr. BURTON. Are there any hostels built on Interior administered lands?

Mr. JOHNSON. Not at the Federal level.

Mr. BURTON. Within that total of 200, are you including State hostelries?

Mr. JOHNSON. There are some hostels in State parks which are operated by AYH.

Mr. BURTON. That is within the 200 you mentioned?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. So you have 200 in all. How many of them are on the State level?

Mr. JOHNSON. There are 4 States involved with a total of about 9 or 10 hostels.

Mr. BURTON. What States are those?

Mr. JOHNSON. Those are Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington, and California.

Mr. BURTON. What are the arrangements with the National Park Service? What role, if any, do you play in those eight hostels?

Mr. JOHNSON. At this time the hostels are at least—the buildings are leased to AYH through the vehicle of a special use permit for $1 a year and at that time we take over the operation and maintenance and so on.

Mr. BURTON. What is the net impact on your revenue and outlays as a result of that arrangement?

Mr. JOHNSON. Most hostels work at approximately a break-even point. There are some hostels that are slightly over and some that are slightly under. An average in a national park may cost us to operate for a year anywhere from $2,000 to $5,000 and the income will be comparable otherwise we would not keep it.

Mr. BURTON. You do the hiring?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. BURTON. Who provides the casualty insurance?

Mr. JOHNSON. We do.

Mr. BURTON. Are you sure?

Mr. JOHNSON. I am sorry. We provid liability for any accident that occurs on the property. Insurance such s damage from fires and so on in the case of a national park is provided by the Park Service. In fact they are self-insured, as I understand. We provide liability coverage for all ac ivities on the premises.

Mr. BURTON. What wage structure do you have? Do you pay the minimum wage?

Mr. JOHNSON. The house parents at the hostels, by and large, are not paid a salary, at most hostels that is the case. At some hostels they are. For instances, seasonal, summer only, there is a flat rate which is paid.

Mr. BURTON. What is that rate?

Mr. JOHNSON. It varies from hostel to hostel according to the volume. It ranges from $500 to $750 a summer season.

Mr. BURTON. You used the word "house parents." Can you explain that to me?

Mr. JOHNSON. The supervisors of the hostel facility are called house parents and their role is twofold or threefold: they provide the supervision, play the role of managers of the facility, carrying out the procedures which we have established for their operation.

Mr. BURTON. These are local people, as a rule?

Mr. JOHNSON. They are not necessarily local people. Hostels which are year-round and long term have local people as their house parents. However, some of the seasonal ones will have people from anywhere in the country hired for that season.

Mr. BURTON. What kind of people are they by way of profile?

Mr. JOHNSON. Typically they are people who are either young professionals, schoolteachers who have an interest in people, young people in particular, and outdoor recreationists, who want to serve for a period of time running a facility.

However, also typically, they are retired people who have raised a family and have been interested people all their lives and want to continue some kind of constructive, productive work. Many of the older house parents are actually operating facilities on their own property. They are privately owned hostels and they live there and run the facilities.

Mr. BURTON. As a rule are these hostels constructed with another purpose in mind for future use, or are they buildings constructed with the specific intent of hostelry?

Mr. JOHNSON. Almost without exception the buildings were originally constructed for something else. There is only one, to my knowledge, which was built to be a hostel.

The case is much different, in fact reversed, at this time in other countries of the world.

Mr. BURTON. We have a proposal in our omnibus bill which interposes the Secretary of the Interior before any improvements are surplused to see what recreation or other value they have. Particularly in light of the announcement by DOD that they may well be closing bases, some of these military barracks-type structures would be set aside. They are the kinds of buildings that might lend themselves for use as hostels.

Mr. JOHNSON. In many cases it would. In fact, there are examples of that already. There is a building which is now a hostel, currently owned by the city of Los Angeles, which was quarters for officers of a base.

There is under discussion with the National Park Service in the Gateway Recreation Area in New York, homes of former officers of Fort Hancock in Sandy Hook, N.J. So there are examples where this may be appropriate.

Mr. BURTON. Can you help me settle this problem in my mind: I recognize the coordinated group is more dedicated perhaps to a specific purpose and more apt to effectively utilize the resources at a minimum cost. But how troubled should we be with that in the legislation? It appears to give you somewhat exclusive involvement and why should we let any organization that is interested in this not do their own thing, so to speak?

Mr. JOHNSON. We considered this and came to the conclusion with the way that the latest version of the bill is, this is not a problem. This is for a couple of reasons.

One, cooperative agreements would exist between the Department of the Interior and AYH and it would spell out specifically what roles AYH is to have as an organization involved. I do not think this would exclude other organizations from participating in the overall program, and certainly not from the specific role of being involved in planning, in the master plan, and operating hostels under their own organizational structure. In fact, that is the way that hostels in this country operate now. We provide assistance and guidelines in their development. Sometimes we provide funds to help with the development.

But we do not operate all of them. In fact, we only operate directly a very small minority of them.

Mr. BURTON. Who operates them?

Mr. JOHNSON. The majority are privately owned facilities. They are operated according to certain procedures and standards which are the internationally adopted ones.

Mr. BURTON. Do those include health and fire standards and safety construction?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. DE LUGO. What is the length of stay at these hostels?

Mr. JOHNSON. It generally is intended to be a maximum of 3 days because the program is designed to enhance and promote travel and touring.

However, there are times when that length of stay can be increased for specific reasons. For instance, a student group, a whole class from a school may be utilizing the hostel for certain study in that general area. So it is appropriate to stay a week or perhaps longer.

But the general idea is 1 to 3 days because it is a travel program.

Mr. DE LUGO. On these four pilot hostels that would be built, how would the areas be selected?

Mr. BURTON. I would suspect one in San Francisco, one in Washington, one in Kansas, and perhaps one in Louisiana, or Chicago, or West Virginia.

Mr. JOHNSON. I do not know except that would be determined by the plan.

Mr. DE LUGO. I have no further questions.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I am sorry I did not get in at the beginning. If I understand you correctly the hostels now in this country, some are run by the Federal Government through the National Park Service?

Mr. JOHNSON. No. Some of the buildings are owned by the Federal Government but the hostels are operated by American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Mr. SKUBITZ. What charge is made by American Youth Hostels?

Mr. JOHNSON. The overnight fee, which is the charge, averages from $2 to $3 a night.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Who supervises the hostels?

Mr. JOHNSON. We have hired house parents who live in the hostels and they supervise.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Is a contribution made by the Government to operate, by say, the National Park Service or anybody else?

Mr. JOHNSON. No, sir.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I assume that American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization.

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. How many hostels do you operate today?

Mr. JOHNSON. There are slightly over 200 in this country today.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Scattered all over the whole Nation?

Mr. JOHNSON. Scattered broadly across the Nation. However, there are concentrations of hostels in New England, in the Great Lakes area, Colorado, and the west coast.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Do the States or anybody else require inspections with regards to safety or health or cleanliness or anything of that nature?

Mr. JOHNSON. We require in our chartering procedure that health and safety standards be met and up to the standards of the local authorities.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Do the local authorities inspect them?

Mr. JOHNSON. Yes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Having it on paper and seeing it done are two different things.

Mr. JOHNSON. It varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction on the degree but they do it locally.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Are any hostels provided by for-profit organizations?

Mr. JOHNSON. I believe there are a handful of hostels which are operated as an adjunct, for instance, to a campground, which are for-profit organizations.

Mr. BURTON. A handful of them. Would they be taken in by this bill?

Mr. JOHNSON. No. I understand any for-profit organizations are specifically excluded from being eligible for grants.

Mr. BURTON. Are youth hostels available to only our young people or to young people from overseas as well?

Mr. JOHNSON. Any one in the world is welcome to stay. The international agreement as it exists at this time is that any member of a national association which is federated in the International Youth Hostel Federation may use any hostels of any of the organizations in the network so that anybody from France who uses hostels in France can come here and use them and vice versa.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Chairman, I am not familiar with all of the provisions of the bill but certainly I am inclined to favor the objectives of this sort of legislation.

I have been in various countries where I have seen these young people stay. If it were not for these facilities young people or students could not make it.

My one regret is that we did not have things like this when I was young.

Mr. BURTON. Have there been increasing numbers of young people coming to the United States and traveling in this manner or has that pattern been a consistent one?

Mr. JOHNSON. I do not have statistics but it seems clear that there has been an increase. The comments from officials at other youth hostel nations indicated that that is increasing.

The statistics, for instance, from the Washington, D.C., hostel indicate that the number of international visitors is increasing.

Mr. BURTON. You charge the differential, do you, to your members? Your members pay less than nonmembers?

Mr. JOHNSON. There are some hostels in the country which, basically as an experiment or a pilot, have allowed nonmembers to stay at higher rates than others.

The policy is basically that the membership fee covers utilization of all hostels and then you pay the same as anyone else. But there are some hostels that are experimenting with that mode.

Mr. BURTON. I do not know how acceptable it would be, a precondition for access that an individual belong to any group.

What are your fees or dues?

Mr. JOHNSON. We have an entire membership structure so that a junior member, one who is under 18, pays $5 to get an annual membership. One who is 18 or over pays $11 and then there are provisions to make hostels possible for organizations. The organization pass is $25 and covers also, for instance, a school class or Audubon club or scout troop. There are also family passes.

Mr. BURTON. If we are going to move with moneys paid for by the whole universe of Americans in terms of taxes, it would be impermissible to permit a skewered user fee based on membership in any organization.

Mr. JOHNSON. I think that what——

Mr. BURTON. Then you would have to restructure your arrangements to take that into account. I do not know how we can use everybody's money and then have that sustain an organization, no matter how worthy.

Mr. JOHNSON. I think that what we are saying, what I have been trying to say this morning is to explain what our present procedure is. Any problems created by our procedures in the interfacing of our current program with the program sponsored or supported by the Government would be something that we would have to sit down and work out. Of course, we have a willingness to do that.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you very much.

Are there any further questions?

Ms. Archer Brown, Council on International Education Exchange.

STATEMENT OF ARCHER BROWN, COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Ms. BROWN. I am grateful for the opportunity to appear here this morning in support of H.R. 13557.

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My name is Archer Brown. I am a consultant to the Council on International Educational Exchange and was formerly its assistant executive director.

The Council on International Educational Exchange wishes to express its support for H.R. 13557, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

The Council on International Educational Exchange is a federation of 170 North American colleges, universities, and national youth-serving organizations which sponsor educational exchanges between the United States and other countries throughout the world. The council and its membership serve as hosts for over 100,000 youths and students in academic institutions.

It is of critical importance to the educational value of the exchange that these young visitors have opportunity to travel inexpensively in the United States and experience the cultural richness and diversity of life in the United States.

We therefore value the work of the American Youth Hostel Association and particularly commend this effort to develop a national youth hostel system. Such a system would be of incalculable benefits to foreign youth and students who come to our shores as well as to American youth who are traveling to learn more about their own country.

We feel a special need to plead for support of this endeavor since the council's member schools and organizations also send over 75,000 American young people abroad in a variety of educational programs. The vast majority of these young American travelers visit Western Europe where they utilize and benefit from the hundreds of inexpensive youth hostels that are in operation in each European country.

These hostels have all been developed with support from the various European governments. They normally provide safe, clean, supervised accommodations for prices as low as $2 per night. This makes it possible for American young people to learn about their European heritage and meet their peers from other countries at modest cost in spite of the currently rising cost of foreign travel.

We therefore urge the Congress to provide public support for the development of a national youth hostel system both as a contribution to the kind of travel that will teach young Americans about their own country and as an aid to visitors from abroad to develop a fuller understanding of American life.

Mr. BURTON. It has been mentioned, and the first witness gave the data for public support in other countries. I guess I want to reemphasize that this is not a new adventure in the industrialized world.

Ms. BROWN. That is correct.

Mr. BURTON. Are there any further questions?

If not, we will hear then from Tim Aufmuth.

STATEMENT OF TIM AUFMUTH, SENIOR SPECIALIST, NATIONAL ACCOUNTS, AMTRAK

Mr. AUFMUTH. Thank you. I am Tim Aufmuth. I am a senior specialist, national accounts, Amtrak.

I am appearing this morning to express the support of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for H.R. 3767 and related bills, including H.R. 13557.

This legislation would establish a grant program under which Federal, State, and local bodies as well as private nonprofit groups would be permitted to apply for 75-percent share Federal grants with a 25-percent applicant share for the renovation of structures to be used as youth hostel facilities where consistent with the national plan for hostels developed by the Secretary of the Interior.

One of the principal aims of the youth hosteling effort is to encourage individuals to travel under "their own steam," biking, hiking, and skiing. This legislation comes at a time when each of these activities is experiencing an enormous increase in popularity.

Amtrak's trains are particularly well suited to accommodate travelers who have bicycles and cross-country skiis in reaching the area where they intend to begin their hosteling activities.

An important part of this legislation is that the national plan for the system of youth hostels is to be developed by the Secretary of the Interior. This will insure that hosteling facilities will be integrated into and complement the National Park System. The nonpolluting transportation modes used by hostelers will mean that larger numbers of visitors will be able to experience the beauty of the parks without the drawbacks of motor vehicle noise and traffic pollution that have accompanied the recent large increase in recreational vehicle traffic in the national parks.

Amtrak has worked with the National Park Service in making rail travelers aware of the history and features of Glacier National Park and Harpers Ferry National Historic Site. This summer, Park Service guides have been riding on board Amtrak's trains in those two areas to disseminate information regarding the nearby park area to rail travelers.

Amtrak has been working with American Youth Hostels, Inc., to publicize the economy and convenience of America's system of rail passenger service as a part of hosteling activities. The use of trains is an accepted part of hosteling in Europe.

There is rail passenger service to most of the areas where the more than 200 existing youth hostel facilities are located. I have attached a copy of the map which appears on the back cover of the 1978 American Youth Hostel Handbook at the end of my statement.

I administer Amtrak's campus representative program. This permits a member of the student body at the college or university to work on campus with a local travel agency to publicize the extent and economy of the rail services that are available locally and nationwide.

There were 30 campus representative programs functioning during the past academic year and I expect to have a representative on 50 campuses during 1978–79.

What Amtrak proposes is to pursue a joint marketing effort with American Youth Hostels, Inc., through the campus representative program.

Each of Amtrak's campus representatives will be supplied with American Youth Hostel's information and travel passes for direct on-campus sale.

Amtrak also intends to work with American Youth Hostels to develop highlights in an advertising flyer format, and promote a series of low-budget regional and national tours to appeal to the economy-conscious youth market. Amtrak would market these AYH tours in

conjunction with our USA rail pass, which is described in a second attachment at the end of my statement. It is actually a separate entity.

As I mentioned earlier, the use of rail passenger service is already widely accepted among European participants in hosteling. Offering these tours will increase the sale of the USA rail pass in European and other foreign markets.

I would like to close my statement by reemphasizing that Amtrak would welcome an expansion of the youth hosteling facilities in this Nation and would look forward to providing comfortable, energy-efficient, and economical transportation to the travelers making use of that enlarged and improved system of hostels.

That concludes my statement, Mr. Chairman. I would be happy to answer any questions that you or members of the subcommittee may have.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you very much. I am afraid that our friend from the Commerce Committee may keep us here all morning.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I do have some questions. I notice in your publication, for as little as $159 Amtrak's 15-day rail pass gives you access to 27,000 miles.

How does that compare with the pass that is issued overseas to travelers? I mean in the overseas rail program.

Mr. AUFMUTH. We do offer the same package in addition to a 7-day pass.

Mr. SKUBITZ. What is that again?

Mr. AUFMUTH. We do offer the same—we offer the 15-day, 21-day, and 30-day passes to overseas travelers and in addition we have added a 7-day pass.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Have you made that information available to our various tourist offices overseas?

Mr. AUFMUTH. I have to speak for Mark Harding. He has been working closely with USTS in disseminating this information.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I am glad to hear you say that.

During the Bicentennial, when scores of people overseas were trying to help people prepare for transportation over in the United States, do you know how many people we had overseas? One, for all Europe?

Mr. BURTON. And that was Joe Skubitz.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Have you worked out, or have you attempted to work out any arrangements with our bus groups in this country so that a person could transfer from rail to bus in order to reach their destination?

Mr. AUFMUTH. Currently, sir, my background is not in this area. You would have to talk with Joe Belino. He is our manager for government and military.

Under the intermodal aspects of our development—it deals with the national bus carriers, including some of the local bus carriers.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Will you put into the record exactly what you have accomplished? I want to know whether you are cooperating.

Mr. AUFMUTH. We are both working together. Greyhound and Amtrak have a change in Boston where the traveler may ride Amtrak to Boston and then continue on by bus.

Mr. SKUBITZ. How does that work?

Mr. AUFMUTH. Again, I do not deal with it right now. But as far as I understand, it is a well-functioning system.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Will you put some statement in the record as to what you have found out? Are you having difficulties with the bus companies? What are your problems in that area?

Mr. AUFMUTH. To my knowledge, as far as I know, every system we have intermodally works.

Mr. SKUBITZ. As far as you know.

Mr. AUFMUTH. As far as I know.

Mr. BURTON. Does Amtrak connect up with Fort Scott?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Amtrak does not pass through my State. Yet I have been a supporter of Amtrak. They do a lot of talking but do not do much.

I know you want to save time. I could spend the whole day on Amtrak.

Mr. BURTON. With gratitude we move on. Thank you very much, Mr. Aufmuth.

Ellen Wise.

Without objection, your statement will be included in the record in full.

After that statement we will include a statement from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a statement submitted by the city of Bowling Green, and a statement submitted by Metroparks.

[Prepared statement of Ellen Wise may be found in the appendix.]

[Prepared statements submitted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the city of Bowling Green, and Metroparks, may be found in the appendix.]

STATEMENT OF ELLEN WISE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS

Ms. WISE. Thank you for the opportunity of appearing before you this morning.

My name is Ellen Wise and I am testifying today on behalf of Hugh Jenkins, executive vice president of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs, who is presently out of the country.

The National Association for Foreign Student Affairs is the only professional membership organization devoted to all aspects of international educational interchange. Founded in 1948 with the cooperation of academic institutions, Government, and private agencies, NAFSA's goal is to develop the knowledge and competence of persons concerned with international education.

This is accomplished by serving as a source of professional training, as a guide to standards of performance, and as a spokesman for international educational exchange programs in governmental and educational circles. Today our association has 2,700 members who work with over 227,000 foreign students on college and university campuses and communities throughout the country. It is the nationwide efforts of our members and in the interests of the foreign students they serve, which brings NAFSA here today to support H.R. 13557, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

Historically, 4,500 youth hostels in 49 countries have provided inexpensive and convenient accommodations for hundreds of thousands of American students traveling abroad. By contrast, only 225 youth hostels are available to foreign youth who wish to travel in the United States.

Our members believe that an essential goal of international education is to provide an understanding and appreciation of a people and their culture. One of the best ways to achieve this is through travel, which for students is greatly facilitated by the availability of inexpensive and safe overnight accommodations.

NAFSA therefore applauds the efforts of the American Youth Hostel Association in promoting a national youth hostel system and urges your support of H.R. 13557.

Mr. BURTON. Thank you very much.

Are there any questions?

Caroline Martin and John Weston of Trancare.

Congressman Sebelius will take over the hearings temporarily.

[Prepared statements of Caroline Martin may be found in the appendix.]

STATEMENTS OF CAROLINE MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND JOHN WESTON, HOSTELS COORDINATOR, TRANCARE, INC. OF MARYLAND

Ms. MARTIN. I am Caroline Martin, executive director of Trancare, Inc., which is an organization concerned with mobile youth in Maryland.

Trancare, Inc., of Maryland, a private nonprofit organization concerned for youthful mobility, is interested in seeing this very fine bill passed.

The United States is far behind other countries in comparable development of hostels.

The Honorable Richard Nolan, Congressman, and his staff are to be commended for attempting a solution to a problem facing all our citizens who see pursuit of health, recreation, and education by means of safe, energy-saving travel as a way of life in the United States. No one but he has been so courageous.

It should have been done long ago.

Trancare also feels it would be wise to examine three areas about which it has some concern: one, the possible monopolistic control implied in the bill; two, the exclusion from financial controls for the corporation; three, and the discrimination based on a fee variance tied into the charters.

Again, we strongly recommend that the bill should pass. We will discuss the above changes in the following pages.

These are just suggestions. They are not exclusive.

Mr. Weston will do this. Mr. Weston is our hostels coordinator of Trancare's hostels in Maryland.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Your statement, all of it, will be put in the record.

Mr. WESTON. Basically the problem we have with the bill is—of course, we do support the bill wholeheartedly. We would like to see it passed.

Basically, one of the problems we have with the bill is what we think is a conflict of interest in which the corporation is set up under sections 3(a) (1) and (2) to administer the grant program and also at the same time they are not excluded in the bill from receiving grant funds.

That, to us, appears to be a conflict of interest. Basically, we thought a possible solution to that, would be the establishment of hostels or

perhaps the development by the Department of the Interior of the Office of Hostel Development, something of that nature, both of which would allow for representation of other hostel organizations within the administration of grants.

Another problem that we feel with the bill is the possibility of discrimination, that the bill—the bill allows discrimination through membership requirements and fee differentials between members and nonmembers by requiring the grant applicant to be chartered from American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Basically, we feel that there should be regulations concerning what things should go into a hostel facility. We think that what could be stated, along with the chartering, would be that hostels will be open for public use and enjoyment.

The other problem, the last problem we have, there appears to be—the bill allows an inequitable settlement of debts upon changes in a grant recipient's purpose for using the facility. In other words, a grant recipient, if they decided to not operate a hostel at some future date would then have to transfer all mortgages and liens on the property to the corporation.

We feel there are other ways to deal with that situation such as turning the grant in at low interest which would become payable at the time.

Mr. SEBELIUS. You have done a good job of pointing up some of the problems. We certainly want the staff members of this committee to work with you and others in trying to perfect this.

I am being just a little practical but I doubt if it would be done this Congress. However, the file is here. The criticisms and the good points are being pointed out.

It would appear there has been a lag in the United States in this field, which is very popular in Europe and provides a very fine service. I do appreciate it.

Mr. WESTON. I would like to have entered, if I could, a letter from the Maryland representative of the League of American Wheelmen, Inc.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Without objection, it will be made a part of the record.

[The letter from League of American Wheelmen, Inc., may be found in the appendix.]

Mr. SEBELIUS. Tell me, what is Trancare? Is it a nonprofit organization?

Mr. WESTON. It is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of Maryland.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Is it supervised by the State of Maryland?

Ms. MARTIN. No, insofar as it has a charter.

Mr. SEBELIUS. How many hostels do you operate?

Mr. WESTON. Three.

Mr. SEBELIUS. All in Maryland?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Where are these located?

Mr. WESTON. One is the C. & O. at Williamsport, outside of it. Another hostel is in Baltimore and a third hostel that we have just opened is in Annapolis.

Mr. SEBELIUS. All these are outside of park controlled territories?

Mr. WESTON. Only one of them is in a park and that is the one at Williamsport.

Mr. SEBELIUS. You are not a part of the American Youth Hostels, Inc.?

Mr. WESTON. Our hostels do receive a charter from them. We operate the hostels, the three of them.

Mr. SKUBITZ. You pinpoint a very important issue in regards to this. I am sure the committee will next year—that will be Mr. Sebelius' problem, God willing he will be back, because he does not have any opposition.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Thank you.

Our next witness is Tom Pendleton of the East Coast Bicycle Congress.

STATEMENT OF TOM PENDLETON, EAST COAST BICYCLE CONGRESS

Mr. PENDLETON. My name is Tom Pendleton. I am a resident of Wilmington, Del., and am employed as the bicycle coordinator of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation.

The Department supports actions which would encourage more people to bicycle more often, and the greater development of youth hostels would clearly provide such encouragement.

While our emphasis is on utilitarian bicycling, we feel that recreational bicycling is a benefit to our efforts in that people who bike for fun on Sunday are more likely to try biking for transportation on Monday.

We also believe that the bicycle is the best form of local transportation for a great number of tourists to downtown Washington, and would like to see this concept encouraged. Although Washington already has a hostel, located at 1332 I Street NW., the development of others in the surrounding area would undoubtedly spur more bicycle touring through the District of Columbia.

I wish to speak today, however, not as the District of Columbia DOT bicycle coordinator, but rather as a bicycle tourer, a cofounder of the East Coast Bicycle Congress, and a former employee of the American Youth Hostels, Inc.

The East Coast Bicycle Congress is an informal, nonprofit, nonincorporated alliance of individuals and groups who have joined together to create and support the east coast bicycle trail, a mapped network of backroads between Boston, Mass., and Richmond, Va. The trail is constantly being expanded, from its original 866 miles in 1976 to 1,542 miles today.

Currently we are researching extensions to Florida, Montreal, and Cape Cod. The trail passes through eight States and the District of Columbia now. In another year we expect it to include seven more States and the Province of Quebec.

Although there are connections into most of the major cities along the way, the tourer can avoid them and bicycle through the countryside which still exists within the most densely populated area of our Nation. Outside Richmond, the east coast trail intersects with Bikecentennial's Trans-America Trail, over 4,000 miles of similar back roads leading to Oregon and the Pacific Ocean.

A minuscule portion of these miles is on bikeways. The routes follow small roads through the countryside, picked out by volunteers along the way, and checked out by volunteers from the congress. Bicyclists find their way by using the set of maps published by the congress in

the "Guide to the East Coast Bicycle Trail," which is updated as new trail sections are developed. The guide includes not only the route mapping, but also a listing of support facilities along the way: bike shops, food stores, restaurants, campgrounds, motels, and hostels. This brings us to the bill at hand.

On the entire 1,542 miles of the east coast trail, there are 16 youth hostels, two of them actually on the trail, and nearly one-third of these are along a 40-mile stretch in the Pennsylvania Dutch region. Because the trail goes through such quiet areas, there are a number of places where no commercial indoor accommodations of any type can be found within convenient reach of the route.

Thus most bicyclists following the trail carry full camping equipment, which can double the weight of the load being pedaled, figuring to sleep out in the woods or in a friendly person's yard when no campgrounds are available.

Those who ride the trail using motels and hostels have to be in excellent condition to ride the great distances required on some days to get between the only accommodations available.

With several thousand copies of the guide sold, there is clearly a demand for long distance bicycle touring in the East. The East Coast Bicycle Congress is pleased to be able to provide those services it can as a nonprofit, volunteer, citizen organization with minimal governmental input to its ongoing program.

But we see one of the biggest hindrances to substantial growth in this field of bicycle touring to be the lack of satisfactory, inexpensive, overnight accommodations. Volunteers can plan and map out top quality routes, but it takes more than dedicated, well-meaning volunteers to create and sustain a system of hostels, as can be seen by reviewing the history of hosteling in this country and the world.

The demand for hostel-type travel is growing. In these days of complexity, inflation, and energy worries, people in general, and families and youth in particular, are looking for travel and recreational opportunities which are simple, inexpensive, and nonwasteful.

Hosteling, with its simple, inexpensive accommodations and emphasis on travel under one's own power, fits in well to this new American scene. At the same time, foreign tourists are coming here in greatly increasing numbers, and most of them are familiar with hostels at home. We expect bicycle touring to make the trans-Atlantic transfer, becoming as popular here with Europeans as it is in Europe with Americans.

Just last Friday, an article on Japanese tourism in the United States appearing in the Washington Post pointed out: "There is even a new fervor to visit 'small town America,' far from the main tourist sites * * *"

With 580 youth hostels in Japan, a country the size of California, which has 13 hostels, these visitors know what hostels are, and could be expected to make some use of them here, if enough existed.

Finally: I was the executive director of the Delaware Valley Council of the American Youth Hostels from 1968 to 1973. I left because of my dissatisfaction with the management of the local council and the national office. As my wife has said, "Hostels are great. It's just too bad AYH is the organization trying to run them."

My apologies to the AYH people here.

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I have, however, changed my mind in the last 2 years, as I have seen beneficial changes in AYH and especially in its leadership. When I first heard of the Youth Hostel Act, almost 2 years ago, I was worried about AYH's ability to manage substantial financial input and the attendant redtape.

However, I am now satisfied that it would be handled well. I believe that AYH as an organization has matured sufficiently, and a recent version of this bill, H.R. 13557, has eliminated any worry I have had about the possibility of other, non-AYH-related, organizations being allowed to participate in further hostel development in which AYH either cannot or will not get directly involved.

In other words, if our organization wanted to set up hostels of our own we would be able to go through the procedure. I consider this a very important aspect.

I would also like to point out, I seem to be the only person who has brought along a genuine youth hosteler.

Mr. SEBELIUS. I appreciate your testimony, Mr. Pendleton.

The experience of my family has not been too good, mostly concerning theft. My wife was sitting on the balcony with two bikes and someone tried to come over the balcony to steal them.

Then my son and his wife came back and had their bicycles chained to the back of the car and it was on the streets of Washington and they were stolen. That happens often.

Mr. PENDLETON. That is very true. We are working on that.

Mr. SEBELIUS. I think we better serialize them.

Speaking about bicycling, I went 1,000 miles in 10 days when I was 16, and not with these new 10 speeds. We slept in haystacks, schoolyards, and finally we did have friends in Colorado and did get to sleep in a bed 2 nights out of the 10. We were probably smelling good after we got to our friend's house.

I believe bicycling and hosteling to be companions.

I appreciate your testimony.

I think it is one field where we could see a partnership and it would get people out of the carbon monoxide problem. The bad part is, it is like jogging alongside automobiles, out in traffic with them. I do not know which is more difficult.

Mr. PENDLETON. There does seem to be a problem.

The east coast bicycle trail has been laid out so that it is primarily on back roads. Occasionally, because knowing our tourists, in such places as Valley Forge Park, we have taken the trail in. But most of it is on back roads. We even have a few gravel roads that you may be interested in trying.

Mr. SKUBITZ. You do not expect modern youth to rough it like you did in your day?

Mr. SEBELIUS. No. But it would not hurt a little bit.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I have three questions I would like to ask you.

What side of the road is a bicyclist supposed to travel, the left or the right side?

Mr. PENDLETON. I assume you mean in this country?

Mr. SKUBITZ. I am talking about this city.

Mr. PENDLETON. Emphatically, within the rules of the road in Washington, D.C., and every State a bicycle is treated as a vehicle, with the vehicles moving on the right side.

In fact, the rule is normally as far to the right as practical.

Mr. SKUBITZ. They are supposed to be on the right?

Mr. PENDLETON. Absolutely.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I was under the impression they should be on the left so they could watch the traffic coming.

Mr. PENDLETON. In the 1930's that was frequently thought. It was true at one point. That was taught in schools and many places.

In fact, in the State of Delaware, for example, I understand there was a legal requirement until about 10 or 15 years ago. It may have been a safer situation with the number of automobiles in relationship to the number of bicycles.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I think as the number of automobiles increased it would be safer to travel on the left side where you could watch cars coming at you rather than having them pass you on the right side.

Mr. PENDLETON. We did develop a booklet at one point on why people should not ride on the left, and No. 1 was, you can see the car just before it hits you.

Mr. SKUBITZ. On the right side it hits you in the back.

Mr. PENDLETON. The basic problem and the most important fact is that automobile drivers are used to looking for other traffic going in the direction they are. If he is at an intersection, where most accidents occur, he is looking to see the traffic going in the direction he is.

Mr. SKUBITZ. What do statistics show on that? Have there been any studies made of that at all?

Mr. PENDLETON. Yes. Finally, in this country a very thorough study which was released by the National Highway Traffic Study Board, and I cannot quote it right now, but it says that riding against traffic is one of the major causes of fatalities.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Will you put that into the record?

Mr. PENDLETON. Yes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I ask unanimous consent that it be included in the record because I think it is wrong. I think it ought to be on the other side of the road.

Mr. SEBELIUS. We will place that information in the committee's files when received.

[The study referred to will be made part of the committee files when received.]

Mr. SKUBITZ. During the bikecentennial, one of the problems we had in Yellowstone, going from Yellowstone to Grand Teton, was bicyclists traveling down the road and trucks going by and automobiles with these glasses so you can see who was coming, hitting the bicyclists in the neck. What has happened to that? Does that still go on or not?

Mr. PENDLETON. I am not sure. The next speaker is the founder of bikecentennial and probably could address that.

I do know in Massachusetts it is now required that those mirrors must be painted in day-glo so they can be seen.

Mr. SKUBITZ. How can you see someone coming from the rear?

Mr. PENDLETON. The majority of long-distance riders carry mirrors so they can see what is coming. It is still a problem.

Mr. SKUBITZ. It would be much easier to see it coming at you than to have to look in the mirror to see if the motorist was going to hit you.

Mr. PENDLETON. Of course, he is coming——

Mr. SKUBITZ. You smile at that but that is a story I got from someone in Yellowstone National Park. They were having quite a problem with that.

What do you think of the idea that just came to mind that perhaps we ought to have dual highways with a bicycle path?

Mr. PENDLETON. It is an interesting concept. I have ridden on some along major highways on bike paths, and in fact, one in Michigan just opened recently. My reaction is I am glad it was there and if it were going to a spot I was going to connect with—I would rather be on a small, minor road with very little traffic.

I am a great believer in bike path separate development. But for long distances I would rather go through small towns.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Do you live in the District of Columbia or Virginia?

Mr. PENDLETON. I officially live in Delaware but I have an apartment in Washington.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I am over in Virginia. Could you find a gravel road that comes from Virginia to the District of Columbia?

Mr. PENDLETON. The way our roads are maintained I am sure we could find a few.

Mr. SKUBITZ. It is quite a problem. Bicyclists pose more problems. You have a fellow coming down the road; he is on the right-hand side and I think often accidents happen because he is on that side and cannot see and he is dependent upon the driver of the automobile to protect him.

Two, they have a habit of not only traveling on the right side but also when the traffic is heavy moving into the inside and going in between cars.

Mr. PENDLETON. That is not a behavior we encourage in our office.

Mr. SKUBITZ. I am sure you don't. What do you do to stop it?

Mr. PENDLETON. I do not believe there is any law pertaining to that so there is nothing we can do except educationally and we are involved in bicycle education programs.

Mr. SEBELIUS. Thank you very much.

Next we have Dan Burden of the Bicycle Federation.

If he is not present, by virtue of the authority vested in me, I declare this hearing adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 11:30 a.m., the committee adjourned to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

[Additional material and prepared statements submitted for the hearing record follow.]

APPENDIX

Additional Material Submitted for the Hearing Record

REMARKS OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD NOLAN
BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS
AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

AUGUST 14, 1978

• • • •

Thank you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to appear before you this morning in support of the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

I have long believed travel to be one of the best means of education. First-hand experience of foreign and domestic cultures involving people, recreation, areas of national significance as well as places of natural beauty all cultivate a unique perspective from which one learns to know one's self, one's peers, the nation and the world around. Travel is indeed the best means by which to broaden one's horizons.

Unfortunately, prohibitive costs have greatly discouraged many individuals from travelling domestically or abroad and, despite reduced air fares which now make it possible to travel from New York to London for less than the cost of air travel from Washington D.C. to Minneapolis, passengers must still cope with steadily rising costs of over-night accommodations upon arrival at their destination. One channel through which to circumvent excessive travel expense is the utilization of youth hostels.

Youth hostels are rather spartan, dormitory-styled over-night supervised accommadations where travellers must supply their own linen and share a common kitchen, dining and social area. They encourage traveling modestly and inexpensively. Over-night charges range from 40 cents to 3 dollars overseas; whilein the United States and Canada, the prices range from $1.50 to $3.50. Hostels are obviously not first class hotels. Infact the International Youth Hostel Handbook explicitly states:

> If you are looking for hotel standards of comfort and service, you should not use youth hostels.

A hostel here or abroad may be a church, school, house, castle, or a facility constructed specifically for use as a youth hostel. The Canadians have even converted an old jail to be used as a hostel.

The first American Youth Hostel was established in 1934, by Isabel and Monroe Smith, in Northfield, Massachusetts. Since that time, the number of hostels chartered by American Youth Hostels, Inc. has grown to 194. This number is compared to more than 644 hostels in Germany, 565 in Japan and 265 in England. This inverse relationship of size of country to number of hostels would seem to find its base in the fact that unlike Germany, Japan and England, the hostels in the United States are funded purely through the collection of fees and contributions from private interests; which brings us to the point of these hearings today: The American Youth Hostel Act.

The American Youth Hostel Act was originally conceived in the waning days of the 94th Congress as a result of my visit to Sweden as a participant in the European Parliamentary Exchange of 1976. In the course of that trip, I had occasion to visit a Swedish hostel and was greatly impressed. It became readily apparent the United States, in all its wealth and grandeur, was sadly lacking in an inexpensive means by which travelers might experience and appreciate this myriad of great national and natural resources our country has to offer.

The legislation we are considering this morning is the result of a cooperative effort between my office, American Youth Hostels, Inc. and numerous other parties sharing a common interest in hostel development. The original American Youth Hostel Act was introduced October 1, 1976 as H.R. 15836. An identical bill was then introduced into the early days of the 95th Congress; H.R. 3767, on February 22, 1977. Finally, H.R. 13557, a revised version of earlier legislation was introduced on July 20, 1978. I intend to reintroduce an identical bill to H.R. 13557 later today which will include as cosponsors several of my colleagues including Mr. Lehman, Mr. Moakley, Mr. Fraser, Mr. Rodino, Mr. Scheuer, Mr. Reuss, Mr. Price, Mr. Rahall, Mrs. Spellman, Mr. Downey, Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Edgar, Mr. Miller, Mr. Roncalio, Mr. Pritchard, Mr. Conyers and Mr. Maguire, as well as any other Member who wishes to join me in this endeavor.

The legislation as originally introduced was revised in H.R. 13557 in an effort to address several points of concern raised by parties supportive of the concept of the Act but having reservations over certain provisions within the language or suggestions for improving the legislation. The net result is an Act which provides grants on a 75 percent Federal - 25 percent applicant basis for the renovation of existing structures to be used as youth hostels. The Act goes further in authorizing grants on a 50 percent Federal - 50 percent applicant basis for the construction of four new facilities to be used as youth hostels under a pilot program. All grants will be administered under this Act according to a National Plan for Youth Hostel Development. The Secretary of the Department of Interior is charged with the formulation of this National Plan with the cooperation of American Youth Hostels, Inc. and any other group interested in the development of a National system of hostels.

Objections have been raised in the course of drafting this legislation because of the fact a grant recipient must posses an interim hostel charter from American Youth Hostels, Inc. prior to receiving a grant under the provisions of this legislation. I think it is important to qualify this requirement at this time. The provision to which I refer is very important to the success of a national youth hostel system. American Youth Hostels, Inc. is the the only organization recognized by the International Youth Hostel Federation, which is to say

the International Youth Hostel Federation card held by a European traveler will be as welcome in any American hostel as it would in Germany, France or any other affiliate youth hostel.

The total appropriation for this legislation is modest totalling 11.3 million dollars over three years. This amount breaks down to $9 million for renovation of existing structures; not more than $600,000 for the four new pilot structures with the Federal share for any one project not to exceed $150,000; not more than $500,000 for the formulation of the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development; and, not more than $400,000 for each fiscal year for the purposes of administration. These costs may be considered off-set by the revenue generated by increased tourist activity. Furthermore, this legislation will signify a U.S. commitment to fostering amicable foreign relations — already I have received letters from youth hostel associations in Brussells, London, Canada, Ireland, Norway, Scotland and Egypt as well as the International Youth Hostel Federation, in support of my legislation. Finally, and most importantly, this Act will provide Americans and foreigners a greater opportunity to see and experience so much more of our great nation.

In closing, I would like to thank the Subcommittee for this opportunity to appear before you this morning in support of this legislation. It is my sincere hope you will share

my enthusiasm for youth hostel development in the United States. Finally, I should like to add for the record several technical corrections to H.R. 13557 which, due to typographical error, were erroneously or incompletely were included in the legislation.

SEE ADDENDUM FOR
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS

Once again, I would like to indicate my sincere appreciation to the Subcommittee for these hearings this morning.

7

ADDENDUM
TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS
H.R. 13557

To Section 5 after (b)(6), add:

(c) The Secretary may award a grant to any applicant which meets the requirements of this section. Each such grant shall equal 75 per centum of the total cost of renovation. No grant shall be made under this section for the purposes of building a new structure.

Strike Section 6 (a) and insert in lieu thereof:

Section 6 (a) Upon completion of the National Plan for Youth Hostel Development, the Secretary may make grants to Federal Agencies, States, general purpose local governments, private non-profit organizations or private profit entities operating under contract of greement with the Federal government for limited dividend returns on operation of such youth hostel facilities, for the purposes of constructing four new structures to be used as youth hostels. This grant program shall be based on a matching formula of 50 per centum Federal and 50 per centum applicant funding.

To Section 6 (b), strike reference to section 3(a)(4) and correct reference by inserting:

section 3(b)(4)

Strike Section 7(b)(2) and insert in lieu thereof:

(2) the operation of the youth hostel by such grant recipient shall be supervised by the corporation in accordance with the terms of the cooperative agreement entered into pursuant to section 3 of this Act.

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ROBERT JOHNSON, AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

INTRODUCTION

AYH is a non-profit association organized as a community service to provide year round recreational opportunities and inexpensive educational travel through hosteling. It was established in 1934 and today has about 80,000 members, with additional supporters and well wishers from the public, industry, and public officials.

AYH strongly favors enactment of this bill. Our comments will include statements as to the value of hostels and hosteling to this country and its people, how the bill addresses these values, and the role of AYH in the proposed national development program. Included for the record as part of this testimony are explanatory documents relating to worldwide participation in hosteling, public perception of hosteling in America, and various aspects of government support for hostels and hosteling.

I. HOSTELING

Hosteling, as a service program in recreation and education, is well coordinated with the needs of the times. Hosteling promotes outdoor recreation and purposeful travel under one's own steam. It is healthful, economical, energy conserving and non-polluting. Hosteling promotes international good will and understanding. It is a participation program in which people see and do and feel and understand. It is a motivational program which causes people to grow in awareness, in self-reliance, in cooperativeness, in concern for people and for nature, in citizenship, in patriotism, and in humanity. These are services of public worth. Parents want this kind of activity to give to their children. People want to enjoy it in their old age.

The bill, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978, would strengthen this program in the United States and aid in making its impact here as strong as it is in 49 other countries of the world. The aim of the bill is correct: to offset the prohibitive cost of facilities development. The concept of the bill is challenging and timely: to provide public support for privately operated recreational facilities and stimulate individual opportunity and participation in recreation.

The values of hostels and hosteling to the United States of America, as a global entity, are more than incidental, and the bill addresses these values. The development of hostels as proposed here is a cost effective program. (1) Dollars are stretched because they are earmarked for "bricks and mortar". At the same time, the benefits of a labor intense program are at least two-fold. Primarily the renovation of existing structures

is planned, and in many instances, labor itself may be provided by jobs programs including CETA, YCC, YACC and the like. (2) Consumer purchases of equipment for outdoor recreation would be stimulated. (3) Tourism spending would be stimulated. (4) More money would be spent in the country by international visitors already participating in hosteling in the other economically strong nations. (5) Balance of trade would be favorably affected. (6) The impetus for private industry to support and promote the hosteling program would be provided. (7) Creative adaptive use of historic buildings would be stimulated and appreciation of our national heritage of buildings, places, events and personages would be enhanced. (8) Use of and demonstration of energy and cost efficient technologies would follow from their incorporation into youth hostel design. This bill recognizes these values to the nation and is in concert with other legislative attempts to respond to them.

II. AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INCORPORATED

American Youth Hostels, Incorporated is 44 years old, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 organization for educational purposes. Its major purpose since chartering has been to help all, especially the young, to a greater understanding of the world and its people. Since 1934, AYH, Inc., has been the national hosteling organization for the United States. This unique status has been recognized by a charter from the International Youth Hostel Federation. Currently, AYH maintains standards of operation and public recognition by chartering the over 200 Youth Hostels across the country.

In achieving its purposes, and in fulfilling its role, AYH has and does cooperate with the government. For example, AYH operates Youth Hostels on

property owned by public authorities. Four states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Washington, and California, now lease facilities to AYH permitting operation of youth hostels in state parks. By similar arrangement, there are Youth Hostels in five National Parks. The cities of Philadelphia, Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Bowling Green, Ohio own hostels chartered and operated by AYH. In a few cases, capital expenditures have been made from state or municipal budgets for renovation of buildings for hostels. One hostel was purpose-built with municipal funds.

AYH has a record of productive management of Federal and local grants to administer hosteling programs. Over the past ten years, AYH has administered programs funded under the Federal Model Cities Program, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Title 1), and Special Grants from the National Park Service. The Human Resources Administration (Youth Services Agency) of the City of New York and VISTA have supported AYH sponsored recreation programs for disadvantaged urban young people not only in New York but in Hartford, Detroit, Chicago, and Baltimore. AYH was able to direct corporate and foundation grants to many of these programs. Currently, AYH projects are supported by grants and employment projects funded under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act of 1973 (CETA). At least eight sites employing approximately 60 people are current.

AYH has started a systematic approach to cooperative planning for hostel development with many states. Some Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP) now carry introductory information about AYH and hostel development. AYH has provided information for the SCORP revision process in <u>each</u> state and presented planning guidelines to each Department of State Parks.

AYH has consulted on the drafting of hostel legislation which has been enacted in Alaska, Washington, and California. AYH has consulted in the establishment of statewide hostel development plans in New York and California.

AYH has a grass roots organization of local clubs and councils nationwide. The council and club organizational structure makes it possible for individual citizens to become actively involved in hosteling programs and to stimulate the programs to benefit local persons.

AYH, Inc., is developing a National Plan for Hostel Development. It is the beginning of a large scale planning process, which can be used as a resource and a precursor to the Plan proposed in this bill. AYH has begun to survey the needs and interests of the wide variety of outdoor recreationists, and the potential resources for a national network of Youth Hostels. By coordinated planning, hostels will increase the enjoyment and opportunity for cyclists, hikers and walkers, canoeists, rafters and sailors, skiiers, cavers, bird watchers, naturalists, conservationists and a host of other groups. AYH looks forward to working with the Department of Interior in this effort and appropriately plays a lead role in coordinating it.

III. NEED

Now is the opportune time for rapid development of the hosteling program. There is unprecedented participation in the recreation activities associated with hosteling. Yet, safe and appropriately designed and operated facilities are lacking. There is an unprecedented resolve to return to nature, study it, live in harmony with it. Yet, there is no national system or program to provide adequate opportunity for it. There is unprecedented need for outdoor recreation and environmental study to become a part of public education.

Yet, there is no convenient and inexpensive way for educators to respond to this need. There is unprecedented travel and touring across the land. It is, for the first time ever, cheaper and more attrative for international visitors on a limited budget to tour in the United States than at home. AYH's own unprecedented growth rate in 1978 is linked to lower air fares worldwide. The answer to these needs is a national system of hostels.

STATEMENT OF THE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

OF THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS

August 14, 1978

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee:

Thank you for the opportunity of appearing before you this morning. My name is Ellen Wise and I am testifying today on behalf of Hugh Jenkins, Executive Vice President of the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA), who is presently out of the country.

The National Association for Foreign Student Affairs (NAFSA) is the only professional membership organization devoted to all aspects of international educational interchange. Founded in 1948 with the cooperation of academic institutions, government and private agencies, NAFSA's goal is to develop the knowledge and competence of persons concerned with international education. This is accomplished by serving as a source of professional training, as a guide to standards of performance, and as a spokesman for international educational exchange programs in governmental and educational circles. Today our Association has 2700 members who work with over 227,000 foreign students on college and university campuses and communities throughout the country. It is the nationwide efforts of our members and in the interests of the foreign students they serve, which brings NAFSA here today to support HR 13557, the "American Youth Hostel Act of 1978."

Historically, 4500 youth hostels in 49 countries have provided inexpensive and convenient accommodations for hundreds of thousands of American students traveling abroad. By contrast, only 225 youth hostels are available to foreign youth who wish to travel in the United States. Our members believe that an essential goal of international education

is to provide an understanding and appreciation of a people and their culture. One of the best ways to achieve this is through travel, which for students is greatly facilitated by the availability of inexpensive and safe overnight accommodations. NAFSA therefore applauds the efforts of the American Youth Hostel Association in promoting a National Youth Hostel System and urges your support of HR 13557.

Trancare, Inc. of Maryland
HOSTELS 222 W. Monument St., Baltimore, Md. 21201
(301) 383-1180

90th Congress in Session

Testimony on HR 13557

Trancare, Inc. of Maryland, a private non-profit corporation concerned for youthful mobility, is interested in seeing this very fine bill passed.

The United States is far behind other countries in comparable development of hostels.

The Honorable Richard Nolan, Congressman, and his staff are to be commended for attempting a solution to a problem facing all our citizens who see pursuit of health, recreation, and education by means of safe, energy-saving travel as a way of life in the United States. No one but he has been so courageous.

Trancare also feels it would be wise to examine three areas about which it has some concern: 1) the possible monopolistic control implied in the Bill; 2) the exclusion from financial controls for the "corporation"; 3) and the discrimination based on a fee varience tied into the charters.

Again, we strongly recommend that the Bill should pass. We will discuss the above changes in the following pages;

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HR 13557 - American Youth Hostel Act of 1978

Problems with HR 13557

I) A. Conflict of Interest

1. Section 3(a)(1)&(2) and Section 5(a), Section 7(a)
AYH, Inc. (the corporation) is established to plan and administer the grant program (Sect. 3(a)(1)&(2)). AYH, Inc. is not excluded from receiving a grant under this program (Sect. 5(a)). It is assumed that AYH, Inc. will in fact receive grants from this program in Section 7(a).

2. A conflict of interest occurs whenever there is a violation of a fudiciary relationship as in this case of AYH, Inc. being the planner, administrator, and recipient of the same grant program.

3. Is it the intent of HR 13557 to expect AYH, Inc., one of several hostel development organizations to both plan a national hostel system and administer a grant program equitably when the other hostel organizations may be viewed as competing organizations?

B. Possible Solutions to Conflict of Interest

1. In place of Section 3(a), authorize the Secretary of Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with a "National Hostel Association" comprised of all organizations interested and involved with hostel development and operations, (i.e., AYH,Inc., Bikecentennial, Presbyterian Church, Y.M.C.A's, Trancare, Inc., League of American Wheelmen, National Student Assoc.) This "association" would be substituted throughout HR 13357, striking "the corporation".

2. In place of Section 3(a), the Secretary of Interior is authorized to create the Office of Hostel Development which would be charged with the development of a national plan and the administering of a grant program to implement the plan. The research and development of a national plan could be contracted to any organization selected through a sealed bid process (possibly AYH, Inc.)

3. Either possible solution would reduce the possibility of a conflict of interest occuring with AYH, Inc. being planner, administrator and recipient under the same grant program.

(Problems with HR 13557, cont.)

II) HR 13557 permits discrimination in the general public's use of hostels through membership requirements and fee differentials between members and non-members by requiring the grant applicant to possess a provisional youth hostel charter from AYH, Inc.

A) 1. Section 5(b)(4), Section 6(b)(4), and Section 9(a)(1). For the purposes of this Act a "youth hostel" is defined as an "overnight facility ... which is chartered by American Youth Hostels, Inc. and operated in accordance with the practises of AYH, Inc. ..." -- Section 9(a)(1).

2. According to the AYH, Inc. "Fact Sheet" and the Articles of Incorporation, Section 2(a)&(b), a chartered AYH, Inc. hostel "is open only to members of AYH."

3. A fee differential of $2.00 in addition to the overnight fee must be charged "to allow interested persons the opportunity of participating in hosteling ..." This policy was implemented by AYH, Inc. National Board of Directors, February 25, 1978.

B) HR 13557, Section 5(b)(4) & 6(b)(4) suggests that before a grant applicant can qualify for grant funds, the applicant must promise to require membership and the fee differentials preventing the general public from use of the hostel.

C) 1. The Assistant Solicitor of the Department of Interior, Richard Robbins, stated in an opinion December 20, 1977 that rate differentials between members and non-members are contrary to serving the general public in a non-discriminatory manner. (See Solicitor's memo to the Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park Region, National Park Service)

2. The Solicitor specifically mentions the American Youth Hostel Association regarding the requirement to permit public use of any hostels they operate in National Parks without discriminating rates.

D) Possible Solutions

1. Section 5(b)(4)& 6(b)(4) could certify that a declaration of intent to operate a youth hostel be made by the applicant stating that the hostel would operate in a manner necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment, i.e., non-discriminatory.

2. All grant applicants who receive provisional youth hostel charters from AYH, Inc. must, in addition, certify that they will operate the hostel in accordance with non-discriminatory rates and appropriate for public use and enjoyment.

3. Other standards and practises for hostel operations developed by AYH, Inc. and other organizations could still be utilized with the provisions that they be non-discriminatory, "for public use and enjoyment."

(Problems with HR 13557, cont.)

VI) Section 7(c) permits an inequitable settlement of debts upon changes in a grant recipient's purpose for using the facility.

A) 1. Is it conceivable that any organization or individuals except AYH , Inc. would apply for grant funds, if, with any change in their plans for operation, the title to the building and its property would be transferred "free and clear" of any encumbrances to AYH, Inc.

2. The amount of the grant could be a small amount compared to the sizeable amount of capital invested by the applicant. The possibility of losing the applicant's entire investment at some time in the future would deter most hostel developers from making a request for these funds - except AYH, Inc. who would have nothing to lose.

B) It is unclear whether a private corporation such as AYH, Inc. should be permitted proir claim over any liens, judgements, mortgages or other claims that may be held by State, local governments, or Federally insured creditors.

C) It is unclear why AYH, Inc. would be permitted to choose to use properties renovated by grant funds for other purposes than the operation of a youth hostel in as much as AYH, Inc. is excluded from the mandates of this section.

D) Possible Solutions

1. Failing to operate a youth hostel could result automatically with the grant becoming an enabling loan payable immediately or under terms appropriate for typical Federal loans.

2. The grant funds could be recouped through such means as public auction and normal distribution of the assets to all parties holding liens, etc. Otherwise, the applicant appears to be penalized for attempting to establish a youth hostel with the help of a grant, while the AYH, Inc. appears to profit substantially from his misfortune.

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

REFER TO:

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, C&O Canal National Historical Park
National Capital Region, National Park Service

From: Assistant Solicitor, National Capital Parks

Subject: Proposed Falling Waters Hostel on C&O Canal National Historical Park

In your memorandum dated September 27, 1977 you requested our concurrence and approval in the issuance of a special use permit for the proposed Falling Waters Youth Hostel.

We cannot concur for two reasons 1) The hostel should be a concession. Therefore the procedures provided in 16 U.S.C. § 20 et seq. rather than the special use permit procedures must be observed. 2) The proposed fifty cents rate differential between members and non-members of the hostel association is contrary to the duty of concessioners to serve the general public in a non-discriminatory manner.

The Concessions Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. §§ 20 et seq.) provides guidelines for the strict control of businesses in the National Parks. If a proposed activity is actually a concession, mere compliance with special use procedures is insufficient. The hostel is clearly within the scope of the Concession Act which regulates "public accommodations, facilities and services". 16 U.S.C. § 20.

The proposed agreement calls for a self-sustaining farm and interpretive program. The farm does not constitute a business subject to the Concessions Act and should be the subject of a separate cooperative agreement pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 1a-2(g).

The concession statute limits development and business in the parks to those "necessary and appropriate for public use and enjoyment". 16 U.S.C. § 20 (emphasis added).

We believe that "public use" means use by the general public on a non-discriminatory basis. Although the rate differential in this case is

a small one and represents an established practice among youth hostels we cannot ignore it. If we accept the principal of special rates for members of an organization, we will repeatedly be faced with the difficult determination of when a differential is exorbitant or otherwise unacceptable. A discriminatory rate structure may lead to demands for additional privileges for members of various clubs.

Hostels do exist in other National Parks. We are informed by the San Francisco field solicitor that the American Youth Hostel Association agreed to a non-discriminatory rate structure for the hostel at Fort Mason. We believe that a similar agreement can and should be reached for the Falling Waters Hostel.

If we can be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact Bruce Landon of our office at 343-9428.

Richard G. Robbins
Assistant Solicitor
National Capital Parks

bcc:
Regional Dir., NCR
John Parsons, NCR

Solicitor Docket
Chron-C&W (2)
Div Files
BLandon/lh/11/30/77

September 30, 1949

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF
AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

Pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law

We, the undersigned, desiring to form a corporation pursuant to the Membership Corporations Law of the State of New York, do hereby make, subscribe and acknowledge this certificate for that purpose, as follows:

1. The name of the Corporation shall be

AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS, INC.

2. The purposes for which the Corporation is to be formed are exclusively charitable and educational and are to provide, especially for young people, recreational and educational opportunities through hosteling - that is, through simple modes of travel such as on foot or bicycle, and thereby: To aid in the acquisition of a greater knowledge and appreciation of the out-of-doors and of the life, culture, and history of the peoples of the United States and of other countries, and to develop self-reliant, community-minded and world-minded citizens, and thus to further good will, mutual understanding and respect among peoples of different backgrounds, points of view and environs.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it shall also be among the purposes of the Corporation:

(a) To promote the establishment of local units, to further the program of hosteling within their respective geographical jurisdictions and to establish and maintain standards for such local units.

(b) To promote and assist in the establishment of hostels to provide simple and inexpensive accommodations for use by individuals or groups who are participating in the program of the Corporation and to establish and maintain standards for such hostels.

(c) To establish and maintain standards for individuals or groups participating in the program of the Corporation, and, without regard to race, creed or color, to issue passes or other certificates of participation to qualified individuals or groups.

(d) To sponsor hosteling trips in the United States and abroad to carry out the general purposes of the Corporation and to provide and train leaders for such sponsored trips.

(e) To cooperate with schools, colleges and other educational, recreational and civic organizations in the development of programs of mutual interest and advantage.

(f) To cooperate with youth hostel associations or organizations in other countries for the promotion of international hosteling.

What control is there over those using your facility?

Complete control is maintained because hostels are open only to members of AYH or one of the other national hostel associations, and as such they agree to abide by the rules, regulations and customs of hosteling and AYH. On arriving at a hostel the card must be delivered to the houseparents in charge to be returned on departure provided none of the set rules and regulations have been disregarded in which event the houseparent may retain the card and the member will not be permitted to obtain another card.

What AYH offers to help establish your facility as a hostel?

The most important service AYH renders is to publicize your facility so that it can serve hostelers who are seeking the benefits and advantages offered by hostels. It does this by listing your facility in its Annual Guide and Handbook which is circulated free to all AYH members now close to 75,000 in the United States. Your facility is also listed in the International Handbooks published by the International Federation and which are circulated among the more than two million international hostel association members.

AYH will supply your facility and its supervisors with hostel operations manuals and literature designed to make your facility as successful and as efficiently operated. AYH may also be able to assist in equipping your facility with bunks, blankets, mattresses, etc., and also help in getting suitable houseparents, if required.

WHAT IS AN INTRODUCTORY CARD OR COUNCIL ACTIVITY CARD?

An INTRODUCTORY CARD OR COUNCIL ACTIVITY CARD IS INTENDED TO ALLOW INTERESTED PERSONS THE OPPORTUNITY OF PARTICIPATING IN HOSTELING BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO BECOME A MEMBER OF AYH. VALID IN U.S.A. ONLY.

At the Annual Meeting, December 10, 1977, in Pittsburgh PA the following resolution was made "THAT THE NATIONAL AYH SHALL BE THE SOLE SOURCE OF INTRODUCTORY PASSES TO BE SOLD BY COUNCILS AND HOSTELS EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 1978."

In keeping with this resolution the following policy was adopted by the National Board of Directors at the February 25th meeting held in Washington, DC.

1. THE INTRODUCTORY CARD FEE BE SET AT $2.00.
2. The price of the INTRODUCTORY CARD be applicable to the price of the Annual Pass.
3. The INTRODUCTORY CARD itself include a redeemable tear-off receipt.
4. The reporting form for Councils/Hostels and Agencies be modified so that cards purchased with redeemable receipts can be easily accounted for.
5. National AYH distribute INTRODUCTORY CARDS on consignment basis (the current system for Annual Membership cards) to Hostels and Councils.
6. The card fee split on INTRODUCTORY CARDS be 50/50. i.e. National would receive $1.00 each and the issuing Council or Hostel would receive $1.00. (this allows the issuing council or hostel to make more than they do now, provides money to offset the cost of National's handling, provides a recordation mechanism, and provides a check against abuse.)
7. National AYH print and issue a COUNCIL ACTIVITIES CARD for use by local Councils only, It would cost the Council 10¢ each and sell to the potential new member at 50¢. The fee would be applied to the price of the Annual Pass. Numbers 2, 3, and 4 would apply as above.
8. Every Hostel be recommended to be a Pass Selling Agency by October 1, 1978; Every Hostel be recommended to sell both Introductory Cards and Annual Passes.

League of American Wheelmen, Inc.
– the national organization of bicyclists –

August 10, 1978

Robert Bennett
516 Cathedral St.
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Mr. John Weston
Trancare, Inc. Of Maryland
222 W. Monument Street
Baltimore, Md. 21201

Re: HR 13557

Dear Mr. Weston:

I have received the " American Youth Hostel of 1978 " (H. R. 13557) as you requested and I agree with your specific concerns about this bill.

This bill as written would give to one and only one non-governmental organization the support of the federal government including the use of public monies. It is my belief that the bill should be amended so that " the corporation " include the A Y H, Inc. and other organizations which meet objective criteria set by the secretary of Interior so that a truly national youth hostel system can then become the clear and undisputed goal. Surely the quality of the proposed program would be increased if organizations interested in developing and operating youth hostels would be required to compete for the federal grants and other types of federal support rather than have the grants administered by and received by A Y H, Inc. alone. I have marked the enclosed copy of the bill with specific lines which are in need of amendment.

If there is clarification in the bill that "the corporation" must include more than one organization, then the section on "Financial Responsibility" appears to me to be in order.

Thank you for your interest in keeping me and the League of American Wheelmen informed, John. I wish you well in your endeavors to contribute to a high quality national youth hostel system.

Sincerely yours

Robert B. Bennett
Maryland Representative of the L.A.W.

cc. Mr. Bruce Burgess
Regional Vice President-L.A.W.

Mr. Ralph Hirsh, Chairman
Committee on Legislation and Governmental Relations-L.A.W.

NINETEEN SOUTH BOTHWELL PALATINE, ILLINOIS 60067 Phone: 312/991-1200

American Youth Hostels Inc.

Founded 1934

Member of International Youth Hostel Federation

A non-profit association organized as a community service to provide year round opportunities for outdoor recreation and inexpensive educational travel through hostelling

NATIONAL CAMPUS, DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA 22025, (703) 592-3271 CABLE: AMERYOUTH

August 15, 1978

The Honorable Phillip Burton
Chairman
House Sub Committee on National Parks
and Insular Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Burton:

We are pleased and privileged to have had the chance to testify before your Committee on August 14 regarding the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978. My staff has been in touch with the staff of your Committee to register our interest in helping to work towards a bill which can be passed by the Congress.

We appreciated the temper of your comments at the beginning of the hearing regarding the time constraints of Congress relative to further action on this bill during this Congress. We will endeavor to provide information and other assistance in a timely fashion.

Very truly yours,

Tom Newman

Thomas L. Newman
Executive Director

TLN/lp

American Youth Hostels Inc.

Founded 1934

Member of International Youth Hostel Federation

A non-profit association organized as a community service to provide year round opportunities for outdoor recreation and inexpensive educational travel through hostelling

NATIONAL CAMPUS, DELAPLANE, VIRGINIA 22025, (703) 592-3271 CABLE: AMERYOUTH

August 25, 1978

Hon. Morris K. Udall
U.S. House of Representatives
235 CHOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Udall:

The American Youth Hostel Act of 1978 is one of the most significant pieces of legislation on outdoor recreation and inexpensive domestic travel to be considered by Congress this year. We believe it deserves your immediate attention and support.

Here are some facts about the American Youth Hostel Act and why it is important to you and your constituents:

1. The new bill is being submitted in lieu of the HR#3767 and S#1412 Bills, which were co-sponsored by the late Senator Hubert Humphrey and Rep. Richard Nolan (D.Minn.). It's new House number is HR 13557 (Nolan).

2. The proposed legislation has been rewritten to provide a cooperative agreement between the Department of the Interior and American Youth Hostels, Inc. to produce a national plan for hostel development and an administering grant program to implement the plan. This plan would be produced jointly by American Youth Hostels, Inc. and the federal Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service (formerly the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation).

3. Appropriations will be used mainly to purchase materials (lumber, bricks, mortar). Labor costs will be reduced by working with existing federal programs, such as the Youth Conservation Corps, the CETA Program, etc.

4. The cost of this program would be minimal because no new construction would be authorized. The emphasis on renovation of existing structures would aid in conserving national resources, while generating new vitality in many communities.

5. The American Youth Hostel Act would provide $3 million a year for three years to aid public and non-profit organizations to renovate buildings into youth hostels and to improve existing hostels. The federal government would pay 75% of the refurbishing costs, with the remaining 25% to be provided by the requesting organization.

6. Three states -- Alaska, Washington and California -- have already passed youth hostels legislation.

7. Germany, England, Japan, and other foreign countries are noted for their fine network of youth hostels, which would not exist without government support. The United States of America should provide similar hostel facilities for its own citizens and visitors from other countries as well.

With today's increased awareness of the outdoors and physical fitness, and our desire to attract more foreign visitors -- particularly young people -- to our country to see our way of life first-hand and to help the balance of payments, we firmly believe that the American Youth Hostel Act should be passed this year.

I would like to have about 15 minutes of your time to discuss the bill with you and your associates . Please let me know when it is convenient. I may be reached at (703) 592-3271.

Sincerely,

Tom Newman

Thomas L. Newman,
Executive Director

TLN:k

Enclosure: Reprint from U.S.News & World Report

U.S.NEWS
& WORLD REPORT

NEWS You Can Use.

IN YOUR PERSONAL PLANNING

2300 N Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037

In a time of rising inflation, there is a way to travel at costs below the going rates. However, you have to be willing to forgo room service and some privacy, and be able to get your own meals.

THE HOSTEL WAY. Youth hostels are one answer to high costs. Despite the name, adults are welcome. There are about 200 youth hostels in the United States and more than 4,500 in 50 other countries. The cost per person usually runs between $2 and $5 a night. Accommodations often are sparse, but clean, and you can expect to share a room with several other persons. You will get a bunk, blanket, pillow, and cooking and recreational facilities. You provide the linen. Men and women sleep in separate quarters. Some hostels have family sleeping rooms. All hostels are managed by "house parents," and families as well as individuals can join the sponsoring organization, American Youth Hostels, Inc.

Where they are. Youth hostels are located in churches, private homes and schools, in cities, suburbs and rural areas. The Laguna Ranch Holiday Hostel is in California's beautiful Point Reyes National Seashore Park. The H Bar G Ranch Hostel has 20 log cabins for guests at its site in Colorado. The oldest operating hostel in this country is in Sheffield, Mass. It is managed by Mildred Roys, who helped her mother establish it in 1936. Abroad, you can stay at a castle overlooking the Rhine River in Bacharach, Germany. Or you can try the Af Chapman Hostel, a converted sailing ship in Stockholm's harbor.

How to get in. Hostel membership is required if you want to stay in a hostel, either here or abroad. Anyone can join. And a membership in one country is good at hostels in all countries. Details on how to join can be obtained by writing American Youth Hostels, Inc., Delaplane, Va. 22025.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

740-748 JACKSON PLACE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 (202) 638-5200

August 11, 1978

The Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman
Subcommittee on National Parks and
Insular Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
1522 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 13557; American Youth Hostel Act of 1978

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As the only national organization chartered by Congress to encourage public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture, the National Trust for Historic Preservation wishes to express its strong support for H.R. 13557, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978, presently under consideration by the Subcommittee on National Parks and Insular Affairs of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

We are particularly pleased that Section 4(5) of the bill includes planning for the operation of youth hostels as adaptive uses of structures listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Many historic structures are well suited for adaptation to hostel use, and a planned, positive effort to provide for such use, supported by financial assistance, would contribute significantly to the preservation of America's architecturally, historically and culturally significant buildings, both by averting demolition and by providing needed financial assistance for rehabilitation. Further, location of hostels in historic structures enhances the hosteling experience through the benefits of firsthand contact with structures significant in America's past.

Some hostels are already located in historic structures. The National Trust recently awarded a $1,500 Consultant Service Grant to assist American Youth Hostels in retaining a consultant to advise on the feasibility of rehabilitating the Star of the Sea hostel, built in 1874 as a lifesaving station and included in the National Register as part of the Nantucket (Mass.) Historic District. A program such as that proposed by H.R. 13557 would assist greatly by providing needed funds to carry out the consultant's recommendations. At the same time it would encourage other mutually beneficial unions of historic preservation and hosteling objectives.

The Honorable Phillip Burton
Page 2
August 11, 1978

We support H.R. 13557 because it proposes much needed assistance, based on a solid planning process, to a program of proven value, while at the same time offering a new and appropriate method for preserving historic structures. This blend of planning and assistance for recreation and historic preservation through the Department of the Interior is particularly appropriate in view of the recent reorganization within the Department combining recreational, natural and historic preservation concerns under the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our views on this important Federal initiative.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. Wheeler
Executive Vice President

cc: Members of the Subcommittee

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN
304 North Church Street
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

August 9, 1978

Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman
House Sub-committee
National Parks Insular of Affairs
1324 L.H.O.B.
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Sir:

As an active member of the American Youth Hostel Organization for twelve years, six as a life member, I would like to take this opportunity to voice my support of the H.R. #13557 (A.Y.H. Act of 1978).

The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department, with the joint cooperation of local service clubs, girl and boy scouts, established a Youth Hostel facility in 1968. During this period our hostel has welcomed people from many different states and countries. (At the present, we have two young ladies from Australia staying at our hostel.)

Hostels are needed throughout the country. Your support of the A.Y.H. Act of 1978 would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

E. Joyce

Eli Joyce, Recreation Commissioner
Parks & Recreation Department
Bowling Green, Ohio

Metroparks

Cleveland Metroparks System 55 Public Square Cleveland, Ohio 44113 (216) 621-1054

August 8, 1978

Hon. Philip Burton, Chairman
Sub-committee NPS Insular Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: AYH Act 1978
H.R. 13557

Dear Mr. Burton:

I am supporting the captioned bill for the following reasons:

We are a public agency dealing with many youth groups, including AYH, and have found that their extent of services has been great to all-aged citizens of our area for healthful recreational pursuits, mostly on their own steam. They have also used many volunteer people who have donated countless hours of their time to this service, thus generating a broader base of the AYH program.

We at the Cleveland Metroparks System are also dealing cooperatively with the National Park Service in its new Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area and find that AYH is compatible with this program, much the same as ours in the metropolitan area.

In fact, we are looking at several possible buildings which may be used for hostels in either NPS or Ohio Department of Natural Resources land.

I believe the concept of private cooperation with governmental agencies is vital to keeping our citizens involved in active recreational pursuits.

Here in the Cleveland area, we have built several bike trails with local and Federal monies, and find that the youth hostels have greatly stimulated active and positive programs in this regard.

Therefore, I support H.R. 13557 to its fullest extent.

Sincerely,

Harold Schick

Harold Schick
Director-Secretary

HS:PC

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Bureau of State Parks
P. O. Box 1467
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

August 14, 1978
Refer to: RM-P-D

The Honorable Philip Burton
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Burton:

Enclosed please find my statement supporting H.R. 13557, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

Sincerely yours,

William C. Forrey

William C. Forrey, Director
Bureau of State Parks

Enclosure

WCF:wls

STATEMENT BY
WILLIAM C. FORREY
DIRECTOR OF STATE PARKS
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
TO THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 14, 1978

Mr. Chairman, my name is William C. Forrey and I represent the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources' Bureau of State Parks.

As Director of the Pennsylvania State Park System, I recommend support for the H.R. 13557, the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978.

A great deal has been said about the great advantages of a youth hostel system in the United States. For example, youth hostels provide valuable opportunities for the young people of our country to travel and to benefit from recreational and educational programs available in our National and State Parks.

The benefits to be derived by providing inexpensive overnight accommodations for hikers, bicyclists and canoeists are enormous. State Parks are appropriate areas to locate hostels because of the common objectives of both programs. For example, the Pennsylvania State Parks System lists its mission and goals as: "...To supervise, maintain, improve,...and preserve all parks...for the purpose of promoting healthful outdoor recreation and education, and making available for such use natural areas of unusual scenic beauty,...or other unique and interesting features. To see that conveniences and facilities for the transportation, shelter, comfort and education of people shall be designed and constructed

as to retain, as far as may be, the naturalistic appearance of State Park areas, surroundings and approaches, and conceal the hand of man..."

These lofty goals could very well serve the same purpose for the youth hostel organization.

Other programs of the Federal Government are aiding in the preservation of thousands of historical structures throughout the country. This is an appropriate thing to do, however, many State and local governments and private organizations do not have the financial wherewithal to maintain these buildings.

There are programs, such as, the National Historic Landmarks and the National Register of Historic Places, with goals to preserve more and more historic structures.

H.R. 13557 would be a great benefit in finding an appropriate use for some of these buildings. Although the Federal Government has authorized funds to restore historic buildings through the Historic Preservation Fund, this fund is woefully inadequate when compared to the thousands of structures that are on the Register.

In addition to historic structures, there are many other buildings which are not of vintage value and which could serve very well as youth hostels.

We in Pennsylvania are convinced that the youth hostel program is a sound one. We have repaired five structures with State Park funds and have leased them to American Youth Hostels, Inc., at no cost. These buildings are all in the Philadelphia metropolitan area.

We believe that we could make additional structures available for youth hostels if we had funds to return the buildings to usable condition or to alter them for youth hostel purposes.

The funding request is a modest one and I firmly believe that it would be well spent. The possibility of expanding the present youth hostel program into a nationwide system is easily within reach. The passage of H.R. 13557 would enhance the program immeasurably and would show the State, local governments and private organizations that the Federal Government supports the concept in theory and in practice.

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

COMMISSIONERS OF FAIRMOUNT PARK

MEMORIAL HALL, WEST PARK, PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. 19131

August 10, 1978

Honorable Phillip Burton
House Subcommittee on National Parks and I nsular Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: American Youth Hostel Act
H.R. #13557

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Commissioners of Fairmount Park, I would like to take this opportunity to voice our support of House Bill 13557 concerning American Youth Hostels.

Chamounix Mansion, the International Youth Hostel located here in Fairmount Park, has long served the travelling public from this area and from other states and nations by offering comfortable and reasonable lodging facilities. This particular facility is chartered by the American Youth Hostels, Inc. and operates with the support of the Fairmount Park Commission and the City of Philadelphia.

Government assistance to this fine facility and others like it across the nation will enhance their ability to serve even more people more fully than they do now. If there is anything the Fairmount Park Commission can do to speed the passage of this bill, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Robert C. McConnell
Director

NEW YORK STATE PARKS & RECREATION

August 14, 1978

Honorable Richard Burton
Chairman, House Subcommittee on
National Parks and Insular Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Burton:

This letter is being sent in support of National legislation supporting hosteling such as HR 13557 which is now before your subcommittee.

New York State has been working with American Youth Hostels, Inc. to establish a statewide system of hostels. The need to provide safe but simple low cost accommodations for backpackers, bicyclists and others using non-powered transport is apparent. Bicycling or hiking to the scenic, cultural and recreational areas of the state offers unparalleled physical and educational benefits to all segments of the population. A network of hostels offering basic accommodations is essential to support these activities.

We have been happy to observe an explosive growth in tourists using non-motorized transportation. These bicyclists, hikers and canoeists do pose some problems, however. Trailhead areas, canoe portages and convenient bicycling crossroads are converted into impromtu campsites in violation of health codes and acceptable safety measures. An increasing number of foreign tourists or U. S. Citizens accustomed to the comprehensive European hostel system are perplexed by the fragmentary hostels system available in the United States. Local authorities offer little flexibility between prosecuting vagrants and providing safe passage "through" their locality to acceptable accommodations. Thus, we have a growth in hostelers without the requisite hostels system to accommodate them.

American Youth Hostels, Inc. and State and municipal agencies have difficulties in providing the needed hostels programs without the Federal aid that has allowed us to address similar needs for other recreational activities. Private enterprise has only addressed small segments of these needs when establishing hostels under an AYH franchise.

Ironically, in New York State, it is not the lack of available structures in excellent locations that limits hostel development. There are many existing buildings that are available for this program, some with great cultural significance and locational advantage. What we need is the basic program to coordinate Federal, State, municipal and private activities and the aid to help with the adaptive re-use of these available structures. I hope that legislation such as HR 13557 hostels legislation will help to provide for this needed and beneficial program.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the hostels legislation. Please let me know if additional information will help you in your review of this program.

Sincerely,

IVAN P. VAMOS
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Planning and Operations

mk

cc: R. Johnson
F. Murray

Camp Fire Girls, Inc. 4601 Madison Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri 64112 / (816) 756-1950

August 9, 1978

Congressman Philip Burton, Chairman
House Sub-Committee on National Parks & Insular Affairs
1324 L.H.O.B.
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: American Youth Hostel Act of 1978 H.R. 13557

Dear Congressman Burton:

As a member of the National Staff of Camp Fire Girls, Inc., a national youth agency serving millions of youth over the past sixty-seven years, I am vitally concerned about the availability of high quality experiences in the out-of-doors for our members and all of the youth of this country.

The values and purpose of the American Youth Hostel organization have been consistent with those of Camp Fire. Through the years, Camp Fire members, as individuals and groups, have made use of the youth hostels and trails in this country. I personally have many fond memories of leading hikes with campers and spending evenings at youth hostels.

Maintenance of a hostel system in this country is important.

Sincerely,

Carol Bitner

Carol A. Bitner
Associate National Executive Director

Bicycle
Federation

August 11, 1978

Subcommittee on National Parks & Insular Affairs
Longworth Building, Room 1324
Washington DC 20515

Dear Committee Members:

I wish to add my personal support, as well as that of the Bicycle Federation to the "American Youth Hostel Act", which I understand is coming before your committee on Monday, August 1978.

A national system of youth hostels could dramatically bolster the travel and recreational opportunities of the people of this nation, all while encouraging increased travel to America. There is a friendly, warm side of America few young, middle aged or older people ever see. A sharing of facilities, and events, and a recalling of travel adventures that takes place in a hostel travel opportunity can go a long way toward building pride and belief in our country. Perhaps you have taken such a trip yourself, and know this value.

There are many others, who come to America, or the youth of our nation who leave behind a large city, and cannot recall much more than the many hours driving on endless freeways, waiting in a dingy bus terminal, or catching a meal at a convenient cholesterol trap on the strip.

I think it is so important that we provide a more intimate, relaxed view of Americans and the land. Hostels, bicycling and other hostel related travel opens this world -- It forms a sure and lasting impression on our youth and the youth of the world of the broader America. It helps develop what I feel is an essential perspective of our roots, and where we might well want to head. If international youth are going to come to America -- and I think we should encourage this -- let us give them this wholesome perspective, and not allow the freeways and bus terminals to dominate their image.

Financially, all this makes good sense. During the Bicentennial an organization I worked for encouraged 500 international visitors to bicycle America. These men and women spent $2,000 each on this side of the ocean. That is $1 million dollars that flowed back to America. Other Americans stayed on this side and spent major travel dollars. That amounted in 2-3 million additional dollars. Consider a youth hostel system as an investment where, say, 10,000 American youth, or international visitors commit their dollars to this land. At an average of $1,000 each, that nets a $10 million positive gain to our balance of trade per year. Contrasting this with the the $3 million of "seed money" being granted under this act each year, I would say that America stands a lot to gain. I hope you will take these points into consideration when making your decision. Thank you for this opportunity.

Dan Burden
Executive Director

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August 14, 1978

The Honorable Phillip Burton, Chairman
House Subcommittee on National Parks
and Insular Affairs
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Burton:

In my seven years as Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs I developed a conviction that U.S. funds are most economically used in pursuit of improved international understanding and cooperation when: (a) they reinforce private initiatives, (b) they improve the quality of the experience of individuals on visits in this country or abroad, and (c) they benefit people who are relatively young and therefore relatively impressionable.

The objectives and strategy of the American Youth Hostel Act of 1978 (H.R. 13557) are wholly consistent with these priorities. I urge your support of this significant legislation.

Sincerely,

John Richardson, Jr.
President

JR/jc